



ThrivebyFive
WASHINGTON



Washington State Department of
Early Learning

Process for Developing Recommendations to the Governor and a 2010 Legislative Proposal by December 1, 2009

Draft 15

PREFACE: In early June 2009, Governor Gregoire requested that Department of Early Learning Director (DEL) Bette Hyde and Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Randy Dorn to develop “a proposal by December 2009 for the 2010 legislative session to ensure that all Washington children and their families have the benefit of early childhood education”. She requested a world-class plan to support all children beginning at birth - a plan consistent with the vision of Washington Learns. There are already committees of the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) designing a statewide early learning plan that is required by statute (SB5828) scheduled to be finalized in the spring of 2010. The ELAC work builds on the Kids Matter Framework and engages the thinking of many of Washington State’s early learning leaders. Understandably, Governor Gregoire needs the requested proposal delivered for consideration in the upcoming legislative session. What follows are process guidelines for how to meet the deadline, as well as, validating and building on the ongoing work of ELAC.

DECEMBER 1 DRAFTING TEAM: A draft plan will be developed by the December 1 Drafting Team representatives from DEL, OSPI, Thrive By Five Washington, and the field. Members include:

Nina Auerbach, President and CEO, Thrive By Five Washington

Elizabeth Bonbright-Thompson, Executive Director, Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network (CCR&R), **ELAC Work Group Chair**

Bonnie Beukema, Deputy Director, League of Education Voters

Sarah Borgida, Foundation for Early Learning, **ELAC Work Group Co-Chair**

Bob Butts, Assistant Superintendent, OSPI

Sangree Froelicher, Assistant Director, Department of Early Learning

Leslie Goldstein, Executive Policy Advisor, Governor’s Office

Erica Hallock, Executive Director, United Ways of Washington

Bob Hamilton, Deputy Director, DEL

Tory Clarke Henderson, Child & Adolescent Health Consultant, Department of Health, **ELAC Work Group Chair**

Bette Hyde, Director, DEL

Erin Jones, Assistant Superintendent, Center for the Improvement of Student Learning, OSPI

Helen Jones, Early Learning Consultant, **ELAC Work Group Co-Chair**

Lorena Lowell, Child Care Center Director/Owner **ELAC Co-Chair**

Paola Maranan, Executive Director, Children's Alliance

Paula Quinn, Association of Washington School Principals

Jada Rupley, Associate Superintendent, ESD 112, **ELAC Co-Chair**

Mary Seaton, Director of Early Learning, OSPI

Jill Sells, MD, Pediatrician, Reach Out and Read Washington, **ELAC Work Group Chair**

Elaine VonRosenstiel, Early Learning Consultant

The group will review research, cultural competence and best practices intensively beginning in early August until the draft is completed. This team will establish foundational principles that guide the system and ensure that there is a continuum of offerings for all children, as well as alternative ideas for how to fund the system.

ELAC SUBCOMMITTEES: Beginning in August and throughout the fall, the December 1 Drafting Team will iteratively process back and forth with four ELAC early learning planning steering committee and work groups and the ELAC as a whole. The work groups are: Early Care and Education/Child Care; Social- Emotional and Mental Health, Child Health and Development/Access to Health; and Parent and Community Partnerships. Please note that 7 of the 20 individuals who serve on the December 1 Drafting Team are also members of ELAC and its work on the early learning plan.

ADVOCATES/CONSUMER GROUP: In addition to the above, it is important that we engage early learning stakeholders and groups, including: parents, families, providers/caregivers, advocates, and other “movers and shakers.” Listed below is an initial list of stakeholders we will communicate with throughout the development of these recommendations for the Governor.

Early Learning

Department of Early Learning staff

Early Learning Action Alliance (ELAA)

Eastern Washington Family Child Care Association

Council for Children & Families

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)

Children's Alliance

Department of Early Learning Parent Advisory Group (PAG)

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP), Mental Health Division, and the Mental Health Transformation Grant.

Family Policy Council

Foundation for Early Learning (FEL)

Stand for Children in Washington

Washington Association for the Education of Young Children (WAEYC)

Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP (WSA)

Washington State Family Child Care Association

K-12 and Higher Education

Achievement Gap Focus Groups

Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP)

The Child Care Director's Association of Greater Seattle (CDAGS)

Educational Service Districts (ESD)

Higher Education Coordinating Board

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Professional Educator Standards Board

Public School Employees of Washington (PSE)

Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA)

Washington Education Association (WEA)

Washington State Board of Community & Technical Colleges (SBCTC) and Community Colleges

Washington State Board of Education

Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA)

P-12/Both

American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Bob Watt/Business Roundtable/Association of Washington Business

DSHS Children's Administration

Economic Opportunity Institute

Fight Crime/Invest in Kids Washington

Governor's Office of Indian Affairs

League of Education Voters

Tribal Nations

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

United Ways of Washington

Washington State Commission on African American Affairs

Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific Affairs

Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs

LEGISLATORS: It is critically important that legislators be involved. Between August and early October, Superintendent Dorn and Director Hyde will have personal conversations with

key legislators since we are convinced that the Governor's intentions are more comprehensive than the original language she vetoed in HB2261. Her vision may not be obvious in her letter; consequently legislators need a better sense of this vision. In addition, draft proposals will be shared for review and comment.

FIELD REVIEW & INPUT: Finally, DEL has designed a section of its web site to focus on the development of the recommendations to the Governor. Please visit the website at www.del.wa.gov/partnerships/elac/elp.aspx to view weekly updates of the December 1 Drafting Team's work. This section of the web site will invite people to sign up for a Key Communicators group. These Key Communicators will receive more detailed feedback about the development of the recommendations to the Governor, and be invited to offer feedback in return. Anyone who requests will be added to this Key Communicators list. OSPI and Thrive By Five Washington's web site will also link to DEL's web site and encourage suggestions/input from the field.

In addition to direct input, there will be outreach and community reviews of the draft recommendations to the Governor. The outreach and community review efforts will be held in different areas of the State to solicit input. This will tentatively begin in mid-October 2009 and will continue into early spring 2010. Please contact Amy Blondin, DEL Communications Manager at amy.blondin@del.wa.gov or 360.725.4919 if you would like to a community meeting to happen in your region/area of the state. It is critical that Washington citizens provide suggestions to ensure that our State's plan well serves our State's youngest learners and their families.